

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)
10/617,234	AUSNIT ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit
Louis K. Huynh	3721

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment received 04/05/2006.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 45-50.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date ____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date ____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other ____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

The Abstract has been replaced as follows:

-- Reclosable bags having a slider-actuated string zipper and a tamper-evident feature. In one aspect, the reclosable bag comprises: a receptacle having a mouth and an interior volume; a string zipper installed in the mouth; a slider mounted to the string zipper; and a tamper-evident feature that blocks access to all or a portion of the interior volume. The tamper-evident feature may take the form of an internal membrane that partitions the interior volume or an external header that covers the string zipper. In some embodiments with a partitioned interior volume, the tamper-evident feature comprises a peel seal. --

The Related Patent Application statement in the specification has been replaced as follows:

-- This application is a continuation-in-part of and claims priority from U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/367,450 filed on February 14, 2003, now U.S. Patent No. 6,951,421. --

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- The prior art of record fails to disclose and/or teach a method of manufacturing a reclosable bag that comprises, among other steps, the step of arranging and sealing film material to form a receptacle having a mouth and an interior volume with a tamper-evident feature that blocks access to the interior volume and the step of mounting a slider onto the aligned first and second flangeless zipper strips

with respective portions of the opposing portions of the film material being disposed between respective side walls of the slider and respective backs of the first and second zipper flangeless zipper strips; wherein the arranging step comprises folding first and second webs of film material of different width into generally U-shaped structures having marginal edges that are generally aligned, and the opposing portions comprising the respective portions joined to the respective back of the flangeless zipper strips are proximal to the marginal edges (the embodiment of FIG. 14); as recited in claim 45 and thus is patentable over the prior art of record.

- The prior art of record fails to disclose and/or teach a method of manufacturing a reclosable bag that comprises, among other steps, the step of arranging and sealing film material to form a receptacle having a mouth and an interior volume with a tamper-evident feature that blocks access to the interior volume and the step of mounting a slider onto the aligned first and second flangeless zipper strips with respective portions of the opposing portions of the film material being disposed between respective side walls of the slider and respective backs of the first and second zipper flangeless zipper strips; wherein the arranging step comprises folding first and second portions of film material to form first and second flaps, and the sealing step comprises joining a length of peel seal material to the first and second flaps (the embodiment of FIG. 12); as recited in claim 46 and thus is patentable over the prior art of record.

- The prior art of record fails to disclose and/or teach a method of manufacturing a reclosable bag that comprises, among other steps, the step of arranging and sealing film material to form a receptacle having a mouth and an interior volume with a tamper-evident feature that blocks access to the interior volume and the step of mounting a slider onto the aligned first and second flangeless zipper strips with respective portions of the opposing portions of the film material being disposed between respective side walls of the slider and respective backs of the first and second zipper flangeless zipper strips, wherein the arranging step comprises folding a web of film material so that one marginal edge of the web is proximal to a portion of the web located at a predetermined distance from the other marginal edge of the web, and the sealing step comprises joining the one marginal edge to the web portion located at a predetermined distance from the other marginal edge (the embodiment of FIG. 13); as recited in claims 47 & 48 and thus is patentable over the prior art of record.
- The prior art of record fails to disclose and/or teach a method of manufacturing a reclosable bag that comprises, among other steps, the step of arranging and sealing film material to form a receptacle having a mouth and an interior volume with a tamper-evident feature that blocks access to the interior volume and the step of mounting a slider onto the aligned first and second flangeless zipper strips with respective portions of the opposing portions of the film material being disposed between respective side walls of the slider and respective backs of the first and second zipper flangeless zipper strips; wherein the arranging step

comprises folding a web of film material to form a generally U-shaped structure, and placing a panel of film material with one marginal edge of the panel generally aligned with one marginal edge of the folded web and the other marginal edge of the panel being proximal to a portion of the folded web located at a predetermined distance from the other marginal edge of the folded web, and the sealing step comprises joining a length of peel seal material to the other marginal edge of the panel and to the portion of the folded web located at a predetermined distance from the other marginal edge of the folded web, the opposing portions of the film material comprising respective portions of the folded web proximal to the marginal edges of the folded web and a portion of the panel proximal to the one marginal edge of the panel; as recited in claim 49 and thus is patentable over the prior art of record.

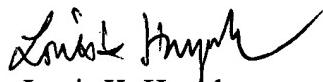
- The prior art of record fails to disclose and/or teach a method of manufacturing a reclosable bag that comprises, among other steps, the step of arranging and sealing film material to form a receptacle having a mouth and an interior volume with a tamper-evident feature that blocks access to the interior volume and the step of mounting a slider onto the aligned first and second flangeless zipper strips with respective portions of the opposing portions of the film material being disposed between respective side walls of the slider and respective backs of the first and second zipper flangeless zipper strips; wherein the arranging step comprises folding a web of film material along first, second and third fold lines to form a serpentine profile comprising first and second inner legs and first and

second outer legs, the first outer leg being connected to the first inner leg at the first fold line, and the second outer leg being connected to the second inner leg at the third fold line, wherein confronting portions of the first inner leg and the first outer leg form the opposing portion joined to the first zipper strip, and confronting portions of the second inner leg and the second outer leg form the opposing portion joined to the second zipper strip; the sealing step comprises joining respective portions of inner legs the web to form the receptacle, the first and second folding the first outer along a fourth fold line, folding the second outer leg along a fifth fold and joining respective opposing portions the folded first and second outer legs to each other, thus forming header that covers the zipper strips; as recited in claim 50 and thus is patentable over the prior art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis K. Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-4462. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:30AM to 5:00PM.
6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Louis K. Huyh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3721

April 24, 2006